

Message Text

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43

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00 XMB-02

FAA-00 DOTE-00 PRS-01 SY-05 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

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R 081246Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2976

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, IS, UG

SUBJECT: IDI AMIN'S EXECUTIVE JET RETURNS TO ISRAEL

1. ISRAELI PRESS REPORTED ON SEPTEMBER 7 THE ARRIVAL OF AMIN'S PRIVATE JET IN ISRAEL. ISRAEL AIRCRAFT INDUSTRIES (IAI) HAD SOLD THE COMMODORE 1121 JET TO AMIN IN 1971, BUT AMIN HAD MADE ONLY ONE SMALL PAYMENT AND THE STATE CONTROLLER HAD WRITTEN OFF THE AIRCRAFT AS A LOSS. NONETHELESS, THE AIRCRAFT FOUND ITS WAY BACK TO ISRAEL. RADIO UGANDA ALLEGED THAT JET WAS RETURNED BY AMIN "TO SHOW HE WAS NOT A THIEF." ANOTHER REPORT IN PRESS SAID THAT "TWO AMERICAN PILOTS" SPIRITED AIRCRAFT OUT OF UGANDA AS FAVOR TO ISRAEL.

2. THE FOLLOWING ACCOUNT WAS PRESENTED BY FOREIGN MINISTRY SOURCE: JET HAD BEEN USED ONLY RARELY IN PAST YEAR AND SIX MONTHS AGO AMIN MADE DECISION TO UNLOAD HIS EXPENSIVE AIRCRAFT. DEAL MADE WITH SWISS-BASES COMPANY, WHICH HIRED AMERICAN COMPANY TO FLY IT OUT OF UGANDA. SWISS COMPANY, DECIDING THAT OVERHAUL WAS BEYOND ITS ABILITIES, IN TURN SOLD AIRCRAFT TO IAI. DAY OF DEPARTURE FROM UGANDA COINCIDED WITH ENTEBBE RAID. DURING SHOOTING, ONE BULLET HIT WINDSHIELD AND REPAIRS DELAYED DEPARTURE. AIRCRAFT DEPARTED UGANDA BUT ARRIVAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IN LARNACA, CYPRUS COINCIDED WITH ARRIVAL OF HIJACKED

KLM PLANE. PRESS AT LARNACA NOTED JET WITH UGANDA
MARKINGS THINLY PAINTED OVER AND TIPPED OFF ISRAELI
PRESS WHICH WAS WAITING AT BEN GURION WHEN JET ARRIVED.
PLANE WAS PILOTED BY ONE AMERICAN AND ONE BRITISH SUBJECT.

3. WE SUSPECT THERE MAY BE STILL MORE TO STORY THAN
INDICATED ABOVE. WILL REPORT ANY ADDITIONAL INFO
OBTAINED.

TOON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: JET AIRCRAFT, AIRCRAFT CONFISCATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976TELAV06172
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760339-0598
From: TEL AVIV
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760980/aaaacqkp.tel
Line Count: 70
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14 JUN 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <15 JUN 2004 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: IDI AMIN'S EXECUTIVE JET RETURNS TO ISRAEL
TAGS: EAIR, IS, UG, (AMIN DADA, IDI)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006